



October 15, 2001

The Honorable John Kerry
Chairman
Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
248A Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kerry:

National Small Business United understands the need for a financial aid package for our nation's air carriers in the wake of the September 11 tragedies. This aid is crucial to rebuilding the economic and transportation-based infrastructure of our country. As an organization with over 65,000 members we realize that safe and secure transportation is the lifeblood of any business, large or small.

Therefore, we are proud to support the American Small Business Emergency Relief and Recovery Act of 2001, S. 1499. We understand that this legislation would strengthen and expand access to the Small Business Administration's loans and management counseling in order to help small businesses nationwide meet their payments on existing debts, finance their businesses, maintain and create jobs, and provide some stability for our unstable economy.

Many NSBU members all over the country have contacted our offices, having felt the downstream economic effects of the events of a month ago. These businessmen are hoping to find positive information related to the availability of credit and venture capital to small businesses through traditional lenders and investors. It is our hope that this legislation, if enacted, will go a long way to helping the SBA assist these firms, as traditional lenders have shown some reticence in making loans to small firms.

With incentives for 7(a) and 504 loans, the SBIC program, procurement initiatives, funds for a number of SBA programs like SCORE, and a research study to be commissioned under the legislation, we feel that this is an exceptionally strong package, and look forward to working with you to ensure its passage.

I look forward to discussing this matter with you in further detail. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Damon Dozier, NSBU Director of Government and Public Affairs at (202) 293-8830 or ddozier@nsbu.org.

Sincerely,

Todd McCracken
President